

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently amended) A modular construction system comprising a plurality of panels, said panels having peripheral frame elements said frame elements attached to each other at their respective opposite ends and said frame elements, said frame elements making a frame and said frame further defining a top channel, a bottom channel, and opposite side channels that face outwardly and a first planar sheet element and a second planar sheet element, and an inner core section, said inner core section filled with an adhesive bonding material that attaches said sheet elements to said frame and to one another, and further comprising:

an elongate bottom strut, said bottom strut having a length longer than the length of the bottom side of a panel, and said strut received in said bottom channel;

an elongate top strut, said top strut received in said top channel and spanning said plurality of panels, and

vertical tie means, said vertical tie means positioned between two adjacent panels to connect said top strut to said bottom strut and restrict the movement of said top strut and bottom strut away from one another, and

said frame further comprising a metallic substrate and said frame having an outwardly facing surface, an inwardly facing surface and a thickness, said thickness surrounding at least one said planar sheet element and said thickness terminating on the edge of said panels [at or] before the peripheral edge of one of at least one of said planar sheets elements, and

wherein the lateral sides of adjacent panels form a substantially planar [continuous] surface.

2. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said vertical tie means comprise elongate threaded rods.

3. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said vertical tie means comprise wire in tension.

4. (Withdrawn) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said channel in said frame is formed continuously around the periphery of the panel.

5. (Presently Amended) The system recited in claim 1 wherein an axial section of said top and bottom strut comprises a “U-shaped” U-shaped profile.

6. (Previously Amended) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said second planar sheet is comprised of gypsum board.

7. (Previously Amended) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said first planar sheet is comprised of cement board.

8. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said bonding material comprises polyurethane foam.

9. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said bottom strut and said top strut are parallel with one another.

10. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said panels are polygonal.

11. (Original) The system recited in claim 11 wherein said bottom and said top strut are not parallel to one another.

12. (Original) The system recited in claim 11 wherein said panels are trapezoidal.

13. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 further comprising a hook and loop fastening system, wherein said hook and loop fastening system is attached to opposite lateral sides of the frame of abutting panels.

14. (Presently amended) A method of making a wall comprising securing an elongate bottom strut on a base element, a plurality of panels having channels on a bottom surface on said elongate bottom strut, placing a top strut in a top channel provided in each said panel, positioning a tie rod between said bottom strut and said top strut in a passage formed between adjacent and abutting panel, engaging receiving and securing means in the bottom strut and securing the top of said tie rod thereby preventing said top strut from movement with respect to said bottom strut and wherein said panels comprise first planar sheet, a second planar sheet and a frame member around the periphery of said first and said second planar sheets, said frame member further comprising a thickness which surrounds said first and second planar sheets at the periphery and terminates [at or] before an outer peripheral edge of at least one said planar sheets, and adhesive displaced between said first and second planar sheets, and said frame member further comprising a channel which is adapted to receive said bottom and said top strut.

15. (Previously amended) The method recited in claim 14 wherein said panels comprise a laminate construction including a first planar sheet, a core region filled with an adhesive component and a second planar sheet.

16. (Original) The method recited in claim 14 wherein said base element comprises a floor.

17. (Original) The method recited in claim 14 further comprising first setting a corner panel to said base element, wherein said corner panel extends in more than one plane.

18. (Presently amended) A modular panel comprising a plurality of frame elements, a first planar sheet, a second planar sheet and a core region filled with an adhesive,

said frame elements comprising a top member, a bottom member and two lateral members, wherein said top and bottom members have abutting surfaces that are perpendicular to the lateral sides of said panel, said members further comprising channels, said channels running along the length of each said top bottom and lateral member and said channels on each frame member intersecting with a channel on said perpendicular intersecting members, and said frame members having a thickness which surrounds said panels at the periphery and terminates on the edge of said panels ~~[at or]~~ before the outer peripheral edge of said panel, and wherein said lateral sides also comprise abutting surfaces.

19. (Original) The modular panel recited in claim 18 wherein said channel is positioned in the center of said abutting surfaces.

20. (Original) The modular panel recited in claim 18 wherein said channel is offset from the center of said abutting surfaces.

21. (Previously Amended) The modular panel recited in claim 18 wherein said abutting surface further comprises two parallel strips separated by said channel and said strips are in the same plane.

22. (Previously amended) The modular panel recited in claim 18 wherein said abutting surface comprises a planar strip positioned adjacent to said channel and said panel

further comprises a second planar strip, opposite said channel and parallel with said abutting surface and offset from said abutting surface thereby comprising an offset side.

23. (Previously Amended) The panel recited in claims 22 wherein said panels are used to construct a structure defining an interior space and said offset side is positioned internal to said space and said offset side is adopted to receive a tubular chase, and wherein said chase is provided with an opening accessible from an interior lateral sidewall.

24. (Original) A modular construction system for assembling structure as recited in claim 1 further comprising an elongate foam sleeve, said sleeve having means to receive said tie rods and said sleeve adapted to fit and be engaged by said lateral channel on said panels.

25. (Presently amended) A method of making a modular panel comprising, providing a plurality of frame members, said frame members comprising channels running along their respective lengths, assembling a plurality of frame members together to create a frame,

placing a first planar sheet on a press,

placing said frame member on said press,

placing a second planar sheet on said frame member, wherein said first planar sheet, said frame and said second planar sheet define an interior space,

and wherein the frame is positioned so that its edge is offset at least one of an exterior planar surfaces defined by either said first planar sheet or said second planar sheet,

placing a top press member on said second planar sheet, wherein said top and said bottom press member maintain said first and second sheets a predetermined distance from one another,

injecting adhesive between said first and second sheets and into said interior space, wherein said injection creates pressure within the interior space and said pressure exerts a force on the interior surfaces of said planar sheets and said frame member.

26. (Original) The method recited in claim 25 wherein said adhesive comprises polyurethane foam.